

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently amended) A method of ~~modulating~~ decreasing the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 ~~or osteopontin~~ in an animal, said method comprising the step of introducing into an animal a structure comprising ~~an agent selected from the group consisting of (a) an antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecule~~ molecules that ~~hybridizes~~ each hybridize under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, and ~~(b) osteopontin that is at least 70% identical to an osteopontin molecule consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2~~, wherein the ~~agent is~~ antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecules are present in an amount effective to ~~modulate~~ decrease the amount or biological activity of thrombospondin 2 ~~or osteopontin~~ in the animal.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 28 wherein the structure is a medical device adapted to be affixed to, or implanted within, the soft tissue of an animal.

32. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 31 ~~where~~ wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a vascular graft, a vascular stent, an artificial blood vessel, an artificial bone joint, a biosensor, and a percutaneous device.

33. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecules hybridize to the nucleic acid molecules consisting of the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 under conditions of 5 X SSC at 65°C.

34. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the antisense thrombospondin 2 nucleic acid molecules are each at least 90% identical to the complement of the nucleic acid molecule set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

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35. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the animal is a mammal.
36. (New) The method of Claim 28 wherein the animal is a human being.

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